

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02954 051258Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 ORM-03 SR-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /171 W
----- 022903

R 051215Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3883

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2954

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. AHRAM'S MAIN STORY OF OCTOBER 5 IS INTENSIFICATION OF SYRIAN/ISRAELI TENSIONS, "THREATENING TO ERUPT IN FIGHTING AT ANY MOMENT." AHRAM'S MAIN ARTICLE CONTAINS BRIEF COMMENT ON OCTOBER 4 WARNING BY ELAZAR TO ARAB COUNTRIES MASSING FORCES ON CEASEFIRE LINES. AHRAM REMARKS THAT SUCH THREATS AS ELAZAR'S WILL NOT SCARE EGYPT; AND THAT, MOREOVER, EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES ARE "ON A LEVEL OF COMPLETE ALERTNESS AND PREPAREDNESS," TO CONFRONT ANY ISRAELI AGGRESSION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 02954 051258Z

2. ITEM OF MAJOR ATTENTION CONTINUES TO BE AFTERMATH

OF AUSTRIAN DECISION TO CLOSE TRANSIT CAMP FOR SOVIET JEWS. IN THIS RESPECT, CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A HERO. EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS BEEN FULL OF PRAISE FOR AUSTRIAN DECISION, AND HAS CONTINUED TO UNDERSCORE FACT THAT MRS. MEIR, AND ISRAELI AND AMERICAN PRESSURES, HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SWAY KREISKY'S VIEWS. OCTOBER 5 AHRAH PUBLISHES MESSAGE WHICH EGYPTIAN TOURISM MINISTER FAHMY REPORTEDLY CARRIED TO SADAT. AHRAH REPORTS THAT IN MEETING WITH FAHMY, DREISKY SAID HE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE WHAT IS CALLED "THE ISRAELI IMMIGRATION PROBLEM BECAUSE...HE BELIEVES PROBLEMS OF POLITICAL REFUGEES IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD MUST BE DEALT WITH ON BASIS OF UN RESOLUTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONS."

3. PRESS STATES THAT SADAT WILL DELIVER "IMPORTANT POLITICAL SPEECH" AT OPENING SESSION OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, OCTOBER 17 OR 18. ITEM IS GIVEN MINOR SIGNIFICANCE IN GOE PRESS.

4. EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY EMERGED FROM OCTOBER 4 MEETING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO FORM MORE COMMITTEES, FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, ADMINISTRATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. COMMITTEES WILL BEGIN WORK OCTOBER 7 AND WILL COMPLETE DELIBERATIONS BY MID-NOVEMBER. (COMMENT: AS ORIGINALLY CONSTRUED, ASSEMBLY'S PRIMARY, IF NOT SOLE, TASK WAS TO NAME PRESIDENTS OF LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN UNION AND APPROVE JOINT CONSTITUTION. NEITHER OF THESE GOALS HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN FIRST SESSIONS OF ASSEMBLY.) NEXT SESSION OF ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD IN TRIPOLI, NOVEMBER 21.

5. OCTOBER 3, 4 AND 5 PRESS HAVE CARRIED BRIEF ARTICLES NOTING THAT CASES AGAINST STUDENTS FROM CAIRO, EL AZHAR AND EIN SHAMS UNIVERSITIES ARRESTED EARLIER THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

6. HEYKAL'S OCTOBER 5 ARTICLE, "...AND THE DANGER THREATENING THE MIDDLE EAST," FOCUSES CRITICISM ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 02954 051258Z

SOVIET UNION AND WARNS ARABS AGAINST US STRATEGY IN AREA. IT BEGINS WITH THESIS THAT SOVIET ATTENTION LIES ON WESTERN EUROPE, WHICH IT WISHES TO FINLANDIZE; AND THAT US ATTENTION IS ON MIDDLE EAST. HEYKAL NOTES THAT ARABS HAVE DONE THEIR SHARE TO DAMAGE THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BUT NOTES THAT SOVIETS HAVE DONE ARABS FEW FAVORS. HE PARTICULARLY SCORES SOVIET POLICY OF JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL, SUGGESTING THAT THIS

WAS DELIBERATELY AIMED IN OBTAINING COMMERCIAL CONCESSIONS FROM US (PROBABLY MFN). HE ALSO CRITICIZES SOVIETS FOR HAVING GIVEN US PERMISSION (SIC) FOR US TO ARM IRAN. HEYKAL THEN TURNS TO PRESUMED US STRATEGY IN MIDDLE EAST WHICH HE SAYS IS CHARACTERIZED BY:

(A) MOVING SOVIET UNION OUT OF ARAB AREA BY FREEZING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS; (B) "EXPELLING" SOVIET ARMS AS FACTOR IN ME AREA; (C) DELIBERATELY INTENSIFYING REGIONAL CONFLICTS. HEYKAL SAYS US IS PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO DEEPEN ARAB/IRANIAN CONFLICT, PREVIOUSLY NO MORE THAN DISPUTE OVER SHATT EL-ARAB; (D) HARRASSMENT OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH STOOD UP TO US IN REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD; (E) GAINING CONTROL OVER ENERGY RESOURCES; AND (F) CONTROLLING ARAB FUNDS. REGARDING LATTER, HEYKAL STATES THAT US CONTROLS ARAB "LIQUIDITY" BY DEVALUATION OF DOLLAR AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF INVESTMENT IN US. HEYKAL CONCLUDES THAT IF ABOVE STRATEGY FAILS, ISRAEL'S "STICK" CAN STILL BE USED TO BEAT ARABS OVER THE HEAD.

SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BUILDUP, FEDERATION, BORDER CONTROLS, IMMIGRATION LAW, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAIRO02954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SMITH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731048/aaaabjns.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAIRO PRESS NOTES
TAGS: PFOR, EG, AU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005